

**Kessler, Ellen**

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 14, 2009 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss  
**Cc:** Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: Capx2020 routing input

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From: Steve Gau [mailto:sgau@sleepyeyetel.net]  
Sent: Sunday, July 05, 2009 8:47 PM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: Capx2020 routing input

Dear Ms Strength,

We asked that you take the following into account as you consider routes for the CAPX2020 project:

- Many small acreage landowners have invested heavily in their property - both financially and emotionally. Many have built in remote areas because they wanted to be in a rural natural setting (no traffic, no power lines, etc). Running 345 KV lines and tower thru these properties is devastating. To make it worse, there is little compensation relative to the impact. We recently built (2000) our home where it is because we wanted to be close to nature. When we purchased our land, T158 was classified as a minimum maintenance road. While it is now maintained (plowed), it is still quite rustic. The canopy of trees all but covers the road. The proposed B-70 route would destroy the rustic setting of our home. As our acreage is relatively small, the negative impact of the proposed power lines would be large. I understand that route B-70 is no longer being considered. However, there are many land owners much like myself in areas where routes are still considered. Please give careful consideration to the impact of such small acreages.
- I-122-004** |
- I-122-001** | Avoid clear cutting paths thru forested areas. It would be better to place lines in areas that are already scarred by roads, existing power lines, etc.
- Our property is on a tree-lined town road that has been washed out several times over the last few years. Clearing trees to run a power would likely impact the effect of erosion. Again, I think it makes sense to place lines in areas already scarred by roads, existing power lines, etc.
- I-122-002** | Our area has historic wagon trails and homesteads including those associated with the Laura Ingalls Wilder family.
- Protected eagles use this forested area to nest.
- I-122-003** | There has not been an adequate correlation made between those impacted by the line and those that benefit from the line. Residents in our area are impacted to serve the power needs of those in WI.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Steve and Amy Gau

59178 411th Ave

Mazeppa, MN 55956

507-843-5312 (home)

**I-122-001**

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-122-002**

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-122-003**

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

**I-122-004**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to residential land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

507-287-2876 (work)